



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE SECRET.

THAT which was in the beginning is neither young nor
old;
It started not; it was formless thing, with no texture or
fold.

Tw'as endless unlimited mass, without distinction of parts.
It never engendered the maddened stroke of lightning
which darts
With power formidable into places that knew it not;
Unmoved it was, nor good nor evil, nor cold nor hot.

No longer this substance stands in its pristine state apart;
It yields to the hand of man and is moulded by his art
To shapes which please his fancy or serve the purpose he
forms.

'Tis stirred by the ebb and flow of movement, and heavy
storms

Now beat upon it part upon part.—What we see grows old;
That which was in the beginning is now lost from our hold.

Through ages long and by changes many and moving slow
Was part from part separated, becoming stone or snow
Or air or man; and whence or by what process they came
Is not revealed in the forms that now our notice claim.
No memory reaches back, and searching alone can find
The intricate secret which is hid from the view of mind.

In Man yet deeper grows the longing this secret to know.
To-day he labors with power, and not is his progress slow:
The past he penetrates further ; forth he reaches his hand ;
The truth he will find if record there is on sea or land
Or in the firmament, or the future can make it known
By throwing its light where once the light of the past hath
shone.

—O, hasten, glad Day, when Man by search this knowledge
shall find
And matter shall yield its longest-treasured secret to mind.

R. D. CARMICHAEL.